



Saguaro National Park (West)

Naturalist Program Schedule

Programs meet at the Red Hills Visitor Center, 2700 N. Kinney Road, and last 30 to 45 minutes, unless noted otherwise. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5158 for updates the day of the program. Ranger and naturalist programs are listed here by categories: Daytime Indoor or Patio Programs at the Visitor Center, Daytime Hikes and Short Walks, Evening and Nighttime Programs and Hikes, and Programs Offered in both English and Spanish. Program listings may also be found at www.nps.gov/sagu.

Daytime Indoor or Patio Programs at the Visitor Center

May 5, 12, 19, 26 11:15 a.m. **Living With Giants** Talk: 45 minutes

Also, **May 7, 14, 21, 28** 2:15 p.m. The saguaro celebrates events and faces challenges throughout its life. A biologist explains how it provides shelter and substance for wildlife; when it flowers; its growth patterns; and how it fights for survival against drought, lightning, frost, and other dangers. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 7, 14, 21, 28 11:15 a.m. **Play Sonoran Desert Bingo!** Game: 1 hour

Learn about the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert while enjoying a rousing version of Bingo! Get five in a row – down, across, or diagonally – and win a non-monetary prize. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 4, 11, 18, 25 3:15 p.m. **Against All Odds** Talk: 30 minutes

A saguaro might produce 40 million seeds in its lifetime, but only one or two seedlings will survive into maturity. Discover how the “deck is stacked” against their survival and what conditions are needed for growth into the majestic icon of the desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 11, 25 10:15 a.m. **Mountain Lions: Beyond the Myth** Talk: 45 minutes

Envision a puma stalking its prey, then uncover the true nature of this elusive but essential predator. Misunderstood, maligned, and nearly eradicated by settlers, the mountain lion remains threatened by human encroachment. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 6, 13, 20, 27 2:15 p.m. **Lizards are Hot, Lizards are Cool** Talk: 30 minutes

Lizards are small denizens of the desert that are a critical component of our desert community. Find out what it means when they do pushups or exhibit other odd behaviors. *Wheelchair accessible.*

May 10, 24 11:15 a.m. **Life Cycle of the Saguaro: Seed to Giant** Walk: 45 minutes, 100 yards

Hear some astonishing reasons about why so few Saguaro seeds make it to fruition.

May 5, 12, 19, 26 11:15 a.m. **Synergy in the Desert: The Sonoran Habitat** Talk and Walk: 45 minutes

For all of life, “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts” is true. The iconic Saguaro is the focal point for a discussion of how the parts of the Sonoran Desert work together to create a rich living desert that is unique in the world.

May 7 3:15 p.m. **Javelinas: Our Desert Neighbors** Talk: 30 minutes

Sometimes referred to as the “desert pig,” the javelina is not a pig at all. Learn about this intriguing creature and how it survives in this arid environment. *Wheelchair accessible.* (This program also will be given in Spanish at 12:15 p.m. May 7.)

May 4, 11, 18, 25 2:15 p.m. **Kangaroo Rat: Super Survivor** Talk: 45 minutes

Learn about the remarkable behavioral and physical adaptations these rodents possess that allow them to survive harsh desert environments. Find out how this nocturnal animal escapes predators, evades heat, and endures aridity. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Daytime Walks

May 4, 18 10:15 a.m. **Sonoran Secrets to Desert Survival** Talk and Walk: 60 minutes, 200 yards

Begin with comments on the shaded patio, then stroll a sidewalk next to the Visitor Center and identify the most common hazards hidden in the desert, uncover survival strategies of native plants and animals, and acquire practical tips to ensure your safety, particularly as temperatures rise with the approach of summer. *Wheelchair accessible.*

Spanish Language Programs

May 7 12:15 p.m. **Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos Del Desierto** Talk: 30 minutes

(**Spanish version of Javelina: Our Desert Neighbors**) Usted está invitado a acompañar a un naturalista del parque durante su presentación “Jabalíes, Nuestros Vecinos del Desierto.” A veces referido como el cerdo del desierto, averigüe por qué el jabalí no es un cerdo. Descubra la historia natural de este fascinante animal y cómo se las arregla para sobrevivir en este ambiente árido. *Wheelchair accessible.*